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## Ronald McDonald House coming to Streeterville

### Opening 5th Chicago area guest house for hospital patients' families

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November 10, 2010

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Don't be misled by the 14 stories.

Home will be where the height is come 2012, when the Ronald McDonald House opens in the Streeterville neighborhood, builders say.

"This has been a labor of love," architect Joe Antunovich of Antunovich Associates said Tuesday at the ceremonial groundbreaking at 211 E. Grand. The actual groundbreaking is set for Feb. 1. "It will be a house, a home, a place built with love that through its design says, 'Welcome, come on in and stay awhile.'"

With 86 guest rooms, it will be the largest of the 300 houses Ronald McDonald House Charities has built worldwide, designed to allow families to stay close to hospitalized children for a nominal fee.

The building will support families with children at the new Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago -- being built three blocks away -- as well as Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Prentice Women's Hospital & the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago.

Its 14 stories will include a rooftop healing deck, chapel, 24-hour Internet and resource center, dining rooms and a kitchen filled with home-cooked meals.

Families can call any time to reserve a spot, thanks to the 24-hour reservation system -- a first for a Ronald McDonald House.

"It's the little touches that take you from a good house to a great house," said Doug Porter, CEO of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Chicagoland & Northwest Indiana.

The Streeterville neighborhood building would make house No. 5 for the Chicago area.

Supporters include Chicago Bears cornerback Charles Tillman, who spent about a week at the house near Children's Memorial Hospital in the Lincoln Park neighborhood when his infant daughter, Tiana, was diagnosed with dilated cardiomyopathy and received a heart transplant in 2008.

"It was a perfect getaway when you wanted to relax and just chill," Tillman said.

"They were kind. They were sweet. They were generous. The meals were great. And I didn't get any special treatment," he said. "It was very family oriented."

It'll cost about \$30 million to build the facility. About \$18 million has been raised so far, with local franchises committing five cents from the sale of each Happy Meal over a five-year period.

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